

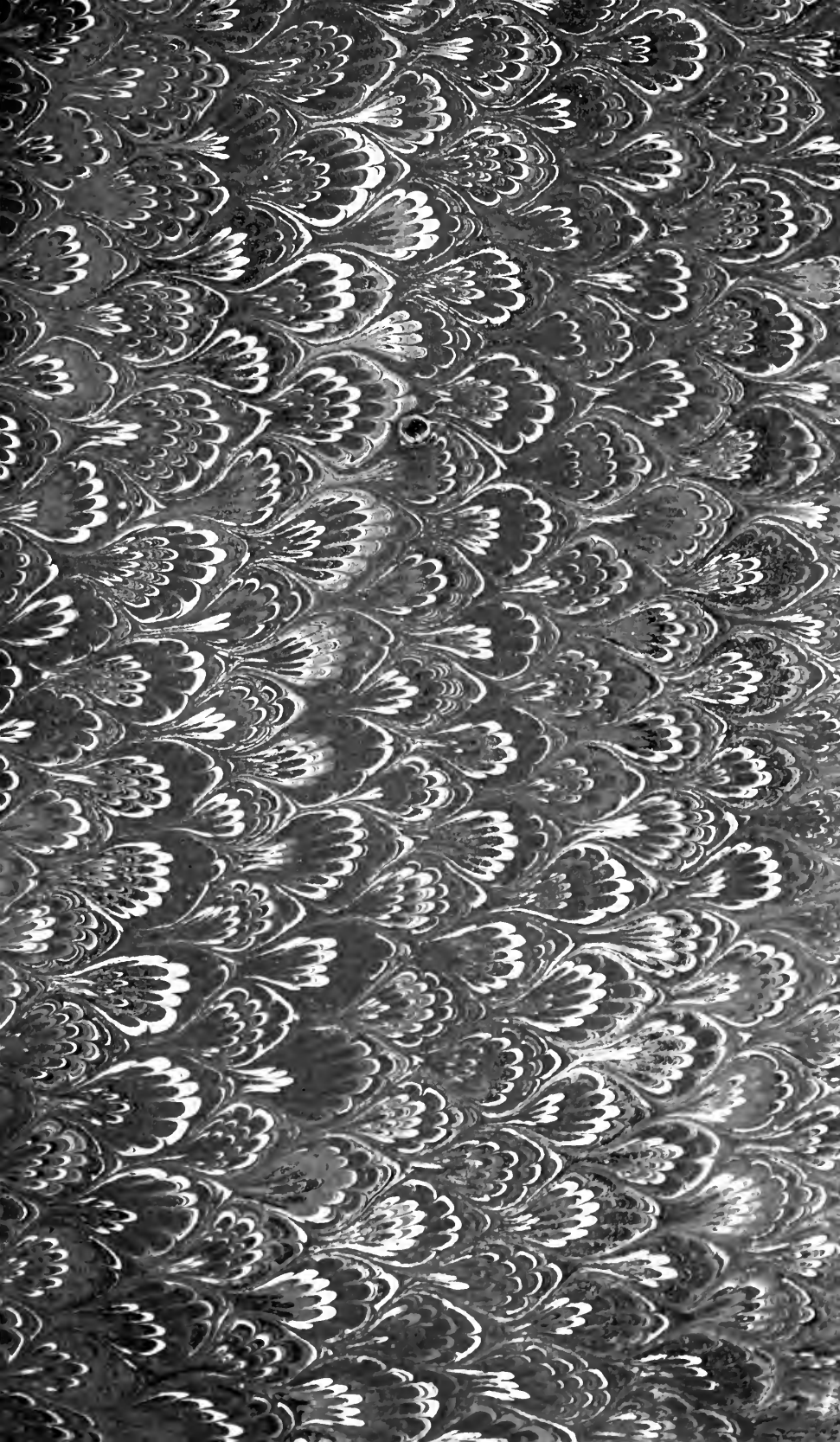




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REPORT

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OF

MAJOR GENERAL HINDMAN,

OF HIS

OPERATIONS IN THE TRANS-MISSISSIPPI DISTRICT.

PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF CONGRESS.

RICHMOND:

R. M. SMITH, PUBLIC PRINTER,

1864.

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MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT.

RICHMOND, VA., Jan. 13, 1864.

To the Senate and House of Representatives :

I herewith transmit for your information a communication from the Secretary of War, covering a copy of "Major General Hindman's report of his operations while in command of the trans-Mississippi district."

JEFFERSON DAVIS.

COMMUNICATION OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR.

CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA,)
War Department,)
Richmond, Va., January 11, 1864. }

To the President of the Confederate States :

SIR: I have the honor to forward for the information of Congress copies of Major General Hindman's report of his operations while in command of the trans-Mississippi district, with an appendix showing what officers were particularly useful in assisting these operations. in response to a resolution of the House of Representatives.

I am, sir, respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES A. SEDDON,
Secretary of War.



GENERAL HINDMAN'S REPORT.

RICHMOND, VA., June 19, 1863.

General S. COOPER,

Adjutant and Inspector General :

GENERAL: Heretofore it has been impracticable for me to make any connected report of my services as commander of the trans-Mississippi district. Such a report is, therefore, submitted at this time.

I was ordered to that district by General G. T. Beauregard, commanding the western department, which included the country beyond the Mississippi. His orders to me were as follows :

“ HEADQUARTERS WESTERN DEPARTMENT, }
Corinth, May 26, 1862. }

“ GENERAL ORDERS, }

No. 59. }

“ Major General T. C. Hindman is relieved from duty in this army, and, at the earnest solicitations of the people of Arkansas, is assigned to the command of the forces in that State and the Indian country, or that hereafter may come within their limits. He is charged with their defence, and is fully authorized and empowered to organize its troops, under the act of April 16th, 1862, entitled ‘An act to further provide for the public defence.’

“ The General commanding parts with this gallant officer, whose actions in the field have been so valuably rendered, with sincere regret. He does so at the urgent request of his own people, who so greatly need and justly value his services at this juncture.

“ By command of General Beauregard.

“ GEORGE WM. BRENT, *Acting Chief of Staff.*”

[Extract.]

“ HEADQUARTERS WESTERN DEPARTMENT, }

“ Corinth, Miss., May 27, 1862. }

“ GENERAL ORDERS, }

“ No. 60. }

“ V Major General Hindman's command will be designated as the trans-Mississippi district, and will comprise the following territory, to-wit: The States of Missouri and Arkansas, and that portion of the State of Louisiana north of Red river, and the Indian territory.

“ By command of General Beauregard.

“ GEORGE WM. BRENT, *Acting Chief of Staff.*”

When these orders were received I commanded a division in General Bragg's corps at Corinth. It was the largest division in the entire army, composed almost wholly of veteran troops, and could not fail to distinguish the officer who might lead it in battle. I relinquished this command reluctantly as a soldier, in obedience to my superior, but under the impression that I might be more useful in the new field assigned me.

In the existing condition of things, General Beauregard could not spare me a soldier, a gun, a pound of powder, nor a single dollar of money. However, at Memphis, which was then being evacuated, I obtained from Government officers and agents thirty-five Enfield rifles, four hundred damaged shot guns and sporting rifles, and two hundred rounds of shot and shell for six-pounders; impressed seventy-five thousand percussion caps, some shoes, blankets and camp equipage, and purchased a small quantity of medicines. By permission of General Beauregard, applied for and received by telegraph, I also took from the banks of that city, by impressment, one million dollars in Confederate currency.

In addition, I sent two of my staff officers to Grenada, Jackson, Columbus, and other depots, with requisitions for ordnance and ordnance stores, instructing them to take even condemned articles, and to bring them to me by the most practicable route. On the way down the Mississippi I caused large quantities of cotton to be burned, pursuant to the order of the War Department on that subject, to prevent it from falling into the hands of the enemy. At Helena I seized all the ammunition, shoes, blankets and most valuable medicines held for sale. Several steamboats, which were ascending and would have been captured by the enemy, were required to turn back and go into the Arkansas. They were afterwards invaluable in transporting subsistence and other stores. I arrived at Little Rock on May 30th, and on the next day issued the following order:

"HEADQUARTERS TRANS-MISSISSIPPI DISTRICT, }
Little Rock, Ark., May 31, 1862. }

"GENERAL ORDERS, }
No. 1. }

"I. Pursuant to general orders, Nos. 59 and 60, from headquarters, western department, the undersigned assumes command of the trans-Mississippi district, composed of the States of Arkansas and Missouri, the Indian territory, and that part of Louisiana lying north of Red river; and of all the forces which now are or hereafter may be therein.

"T. C. HINDMAN, *Major General.*

"Official: R. C. NEWTON, *A. A. G.*"

The state of affairs in the trans-Mississippi district was extremely discouraging. Prior to the Elkhorn disaster the reverse had been the case. At that time the enemy, indeed, occupied all of Missouri, but the spirit of resistance was unquenched, and might at any moment blaze into formidable rebellion. Van Dorn, Price and McCalloch, with the best army we had yet put in the field in that region, were in

northwest Arkansas, securing it against invasion. Brigadier General Pike held a corresponding line in the Indian country, where the Confederate supremacy was undisputed.

The battle of Elkhorn was fought in March, 1862. Our forces were defeated and compelled to retreat to the Arkansas river. Soon after, in anticipation of a grand contest near Corinth, they were moved east of the Mississippi, by order of General Albert Sidney Johnston, then commanding the Western department. They took with them from Arkansas all material of war and public property, of every description. Immediately afterwards, Brigadier General Pike retreated southward, to the vicinity of Red river. Thus Missouri was left hopeless of early succor, Arkansas without a soldier, and the Indian country undefended, except by its own inhabitants. Availing himself of these advantages, the Federal General Curtis marched from Elkhorn, along White river, into northeast Arkansas, and halted at Batesville, ninety miles from Little Rock, to get supplies for an advance on that place. A Federal force, five thousand strong, was organized at Fort Scott, under the name of the "Indian expedition," and with the avowed intention to invade the Indian country and wrest it from our control. Hostile Indians began collecting on the border, and Federal emissaries were busy among the Cherokees and Creeks inciting disaffection. Detachments of Federal cavalry penetrated, at will, into various parts of the upper half of Arkansas, plundering and burning houses, stealing horses and slaves, destroying farming utensils, murdering loyal men or carrying them into captivity, forcing the oath of allegiance on the timid and disseminating disloyal sentiments among the ignorant. A regiment of Federal Arkansians was organized at Batesville, another commenced in northwest Arkansas, and the work of recruiting for the Federal service went on prosperously. Tory bands were organized or in process of organization in many counties, not only in the upper, but in the lower half of the State likewise, and depredations and outrages upon loyal citizens were of constant occurrence. Straggling soldiers, belonging to distant commands, traversed the country, armed and lawless, robbing the people of their property under pretence of "impressing" it for the Confederate service. The Governor and other executive officers fled from the capital, taking the archives of State with them. The courts were suspended, and civil magistrates almost universally ceased to exercise their functions. Confederate money was openly refused, or so depreciated as to be nearly worthless. This, with the short crop of the preceding year, and the failure, on all the uplands, of the one then growing, gave rise to the cruellest extortion in the necessities of life, and menaced the poor with actual starvation. These evils were aggravated by an address of the Governor, issued shortly before his flight, deprecating the withdrawal of troops and threatening secession from the Confederacy.

Brigadier General J. S. Roane had been placed in command of Arkansas by General Van Dorn, but without any troops. He was instructed, as the best thing possible, to endeavor to hold the line of the Arkansas river, giving up more than half the territory, popula-

tion and resources of the State. That this might be done, General Van Dorn directed General Pike to send a portion of his force to Little Rock, but he refused. General Pike had, at that time, one regiment of Arkansas infantry; two six-gun Arkansas batteries; one Texas battery of four guns; two regiments, and several unattached companies of Texas cavalry; and ten ten-pounder Parrott rifles; besides five thousand five hundred Indian troops. There was no Federal force, other than small marauding parties, within two hundred miles of him. General Roane was at Little Rock, without a regiment, and Curtis' victorious army, at least fifteen thousand strong, was moving in that direction.

Fortunately, five regiments of Texas cavalry arrived, on their way to Corinth. General Roane, by permission of General Beauregard, detained them at Little Rock. About the same time, by order of the Navy Department, the Confederate ram "Mauripias," Lieutenant Joseph Fry, commanding, came into White river, and the ram "Pontchartrain," Lieutenant J. W. Dunnington, commanding, into the Arkansas.

These accessions had the effect to retard the movements of Curtis, whose advance, when I assumed command, was thirty-five miles from Little Rock. I found under General Roane eight companies of Arkansas infantry, wholly unarmed; one six-gun battery, with but forty men; and less than fifteen hundred effective cavalry—many of the Texans being unarmed, and many of them sick. For this force he had about three days subsistence and forage, and less than fifteen rounds of ammunition.

There were no depots of supplies in the district. In the situation in which I was placed, it was necessary to do many important acts with promptness. Any hesitatin or serious error, would inevitably result in the capture of Little Rock, and the loss of the remainder of Arkansas to the Confederacy. That would involve the loss, also, of the Indian country, and destroy all hope of recovering Missouri, besides exposing Texas and Louisiana to the greatest misfortunes. Such calamities could not be averted without an army. I had no army, and had not been authorized to raise one, the instructions of General Beauregard limiting me to the enforcement of the "conscript act," which prohibited new regiments. To wait until necessary authority could be applied for and received from Richmond, even if the Government should not deem itself precluded by the "conscript act" from granting such authority, would be nothing else than the surrender to the enemy of the country from which the troops must be obtained. I therefore resolved to accept the responsibility which the situation imposed, of raising and organizing a force without authority of law, and that I would do all acts necessary to make that determination effective. In coming to this conclusion, I considered that the main object of all law is the public safety, and that the evident necessity of departing from the letter of the law, in order to accomplish the object, would more than justify me in the eyes of my superiors and of intelligent patriots, everywhere.

The first difficulty to be met, in the execution of this purpose, was

the attempt of the Governor of Arkansas to raise a State force, upon the basis of his formal pledge not to transfer it to the Confederate service. Under the most favorable circumstances, two different military organizations would antagonize, rather than help each other. I had witnessed this result in Arkansas, at the commencement of the war. After much trouble and embarrassment, General Hardee had finally obtained the consent of the State authorities to transfer their troops; but this agreement was trammelled with the condition that each and every soldier should decide the question for himself. Taking advantage of this, the Adjutant General of the State, (E. Burgwin,) and two of the general officers, (James Yell and N. B. Burrow,) came near defeating the whole plan. In northwest Arkansas, out of over three thousand soldiers, only eighteen consented to be transferred. In northeast Arkansas, nearly half of the first regiment, approached on the subject, decided to go home. To prevent further losses, General Hardee devolved on me the duty of effecting the transfer of the remaining four regiments. It was done by hurrying to their camps, and mustering them into the Confederate service, before the Adjutant General of the State could reach them. Warned by this experience, and remembering the Governor's late threat of secession, I represented to him that I should feel constrained to apply the provision of the "conscript act" to his troops, and to impress whatever stores he might accumulate. He abandoned the attempt, and transferred to the Confederacy the few troops already raised, together with all military property of the State. I now directed the enrollment and organization into companies and regiments, of all men in Arkansas subject to conscription.

Absentees from commands east of the Mississippi were to be included, but with a memorandum, stating their proper companies and regiments. Substitution was prohibited, because I regarded it as certain to increase the difficulties, already too great, that were in my way.

To encourage volunteering, it was announced that they who should form companies by June 20th, would be permitted to elect their company officers; but that in all other cases the company officers, and in all cases the field and staff officers, would be appointed. Under the conscript law, these men were to be distributed among the old regiments, depriving them of all right to elect officers of any grade. I enlarged instead of curtailing their privileges. Laying off the State into convenient districts, I appointed a commander over each, giving him control of the enrolling officers within his district, authorizing him to purchase or impress arms, ammunition, and the necessary supplies, and assigning to him a quartermaster and commissary. On these staff officers, bonds were required in the penalty and according to the form prescribed by law.

The various district commanders and enrolling officers were instructed to report, in detail, upon the agricultural and mineral resources of each county, and its condition in respect of transportation, and other matters important to be known. Their reports were subsequently abstracted by Major (now Brigadier General) F. A. Shoupe, of my staff, and forwarded to Richmond.

Military posts were established at those points at which troops were to be concentrated, and at other points where it was deemed expedient to place supplies in reserve, or for troops on the march. For these posts, officers of the several staff departments were appointed, and the accumulation of supplies commenced.

Measures were also adopted for manufacturing many important articles for army use; among these articles were salt, leather, shoes, wagons, harness, gun-carriages and caissons, powder, shot and shell, and accoutrements, all of which were soon produced in considerable quantities. Preparations were made for mining and smelting iron, with the view to cast field and heavy artillery; and moulds, furnaces, and lathes were constructed for this purpose. Machinery was made for manufacturing percussion caps and small arms, and both were turned out in small quantity, but of excellent quality. Lead mines were opened and worked. A chemical laboratory was established, and successfully operated, in aiding the ordnance department, and in the manufacture of calomel, castor oil, spirits of nitre, the various tinctures of iron, and other valuable medicines. Most of these works were located at and near Arkadelphia, on the Ouachita river, seventy-five miles south from Little Rock. The tools, machinery, and materials were gathered piece-meal, or else made by hand labor. Nothing of the sort had been before attempted on government account, in Arkansas, to my knowledge, except the manufacture of small arms, the machinery for which was taken away by General Van Dorn; and there was neither capital nor sufficient enterprise among citizens to engage in such undertakings. Considering the isolation of my district, and the virtual impossibility of supplying it from east of the Mississippi, my purpose was to make it completely self-sustaining. With a reasonable amount of money, I should have accomplished this design, if left to my discretion in its execution. The natural resources of that country are truly wonderful in their abundance and variety. Energy and a liberal foresight might develope them to an immensely valuable extent.

Being made responsible for the defence of north Louisiana, I assigned Brigadier General Roane to that command, with instructions to enroll and organize the men subject to conscription. He found, at Monroe, two regiments and a battalion of unarmed infantry, and an artillery company without guns. Steps had been taken to render these troops efficient, and to add to them; when, without any notice to me, Brigadier General Blanchard was placed in command of the conscripts of north Louisiana, by the Secretary of War. Upon the receipt, from General Blanchard, of a copy of the Secretary's order, I recalled General Roane.

With the view to revive the hopes of loyal men in Missouri, and to get troops from that State, I gave authority to various persons to raise companies and regiments there, and to operate as guerrillas. They soon became exceedingly active, and rendered important services, destroying wagon trains and transports, tearing up railways, breaking telegraph lines, capturing towns, and thus compelling the enemy to keep there a large force that might have been employed elsewhere.

The victory won at Lone Jack, by Colonels Cockrell and Jockman, aided by Captain Quantrell, was one of the most brilliant affairs of the war, resulting in the complete rout of a superior force, and the capture of their artillery, two splendid bronze rifles, with the horses and full equipments; which were safely brought to me, and afterwards proved very valuable. Besides the officers above mentioned, Colonel Porter, and others, highly distinguished themselves and greatly annoyed the enemy. I regret that the difficulty of communicating with me while they were so employed, prevented any written reports, and leaves me unable to speak of their operations in the terms deserved.

Missourians in Arkansas, belonging to the old "State Guard," were strongly desirous to revive that organization. Embarrassment on that score was prevented by accepting their general officers—Brigadier Generals McBride and Rains—into the Confederate service, conditioned upon the approval of the Secretary of War. The number of these men was not great, nor were they embodied; but they were tried soldiers, full of zeal for the cause, and it would have been a serious misfortune to have lost their services, or to have been involved in dissensions with them.

Being apprised that there were large bodies of troops in Texas unemployed, I applied to Brigadier General Hebert and Brigadier General McCulloch to send, or, if practicable, bring them to me. The action of both these officers was prompt, liberal, and patriotic; and I take this opportunity to acknowledge my obligation to them. They sent me many fine regiments, some of which came armed, and others were armed by me.

In view of the dangers that threatened to overwhelm my district, I decided that all cotton in Arkansas and north Louisiana was in imminent danger of falling into the hands of the enemy. Being of that opinion, it was my duty, under the act of Congress of March 17th, 1862, and the order of the War Department thereon, to take such steps as would certainly put this property out of the enemy's reach. To defer taking it into possession until the enemy should get in its immediate vicinity, and then rely upon the owners to destroy it, would be puerile. Wherever that had been tried, the enemy got at least five bales out of every ten. Whether this resulted from the fears or the cupidity of the owners, was immaterial. I determined to dispose of the matter differently and effectually. An order was issued, seizing all the cotton which I had regarded as in danger, and directing receipts given for it, by agents appointed for the purpose. The same order directed that all cotton adjacent to the enemy's lines should be burned immediately; that the remainder should be removed twenty miles from any navigable stream, and burned upon the approach of an enemy; but that, out of all, as far as practicable, ten pounds should be issued, as a gratuity, to each member of every family, for domestic manufactures. The distribution in ten pound parcels was as certain a mode of keeping the cotton out of the enemy's hands as to destroy it, while, in fact, it extorted from misfortune a great public benefit.

Many planters complained—those nearest the enemy more loudly

than any. The enemy also expressed great indignation, and denounced the penalty of death against all cotton-burners. But, on the other hand, the object of the law was accomplished more fully than was possible under any different policy; and, at the same time, the wives and children of soldiers, and other necessitous persons, were provided with the material for clothing themselves and their relations in the army. In furtherance of this same policy, I gave considerable aid to persons skilled in the manufacture of cotton and wool cards, spinning wheels and looms, and caused wool to be brought from Texas and exchanged, at cost and carriage, for army supplies. This resulted in a developement of home industry and production never before equalled, and which was an essential element of my success in the creation and maintenance of an army. On the day of taking command, I caused the powder on the "Pontchartrain" to be sifted, and thereby obtained a considerable quantity for small arms. A further supply, together with lead and caps, was procured from the citizens of Little Rock and vicinity, by donations, purchases, and impressments. This ammunition, and that which I had brought with me, was rapidly prepared for use, at the laboratory established at the Little Rock arsenal for the purpose. As illustrating the pitiable scarcity of material in the country, the fact may be stated that it was found necessary to use public documents of the State library for cartridge paper.

Gunsmiths were employed or conscribed, tools purchased or impressed, and the repair of the damaged guns I brought with me, and about an equal number found at Little Rock, was commenced at once. Men were transferred from the unarmed infantry to the artillery company, and it was otherwise rendered as effective as possible. Four iron guns, condemned under the United States Government, and left at the arsenal as useless, and eight others that had been inserted in the earth for years as corner posts, were mounted and equipped, and afterwards rendered good service in the field.

On June 3d, anticipating the fall of Memphis, and that Federal fleets would ascend White river and the Arkansas, to co-operate with Curtis, I took steps for obstructing both streams. The sudden fall of the Arkansas obviated the danger as to it, for the time being. The point selected on White river was St Charles, about one hundred miles above the mouth, where the first bluff appears. A pile-driver was taken there from Little Rock, and another hauled over land from Madison, on the St. Francis. Timber was cut and floated down, and great energy displayed in the work. Captain A. M. Williams, of my staff, had charge of this undertaking, assisted by Mr. L. Leary and Mr. George Brodie, citizens. One hundred men of the infantry went under Captain Williams, thirty-five being armed with the Enfield rifles brought from Memphis; the others were intended for labor on the obstructions. I had no arms for them.

On June 5th, I pushed my cavalry boldly against Curtis's advance, which outnumbered them as three to one. I had previously endeavored to impress Curtis with the belief that a large force came with me from Corinth, and that heavy reinforcements had reached me from Texas. This information was conveyed to him by spies and disloyal

persons, the latter being themselves deceived. The result answered my expectations. After a very feeble resistance, the Federal cavalry fell back beyond bayou Des Arc. I then ordered the "Mauripas" up White river to capture or destroy the supplies collected at Grand Glaize and Jacksonport, and to alarm the enemy by thus threatening his communication with Batesville. Captain Fry executed these orders with admirable promptness and complete success. At the same time, the enemy was attacked in front. He retired in confusion to Little Red river, and thence retreated to the vicinity of Batesville. Brigadier General A. Rust, who had been ordered to report to me by General Van Dorn, had command of my cavalry at that time.

These operations gave me a good line of defence—that of White river, and its tributary, the Little Red. Our losses did not exceed fifty. The enemy lost, in killed, wounded, and prisoners, over three hundred, with as many arms, and several wagons containing ammunition. Skirmishing was now almost continuous, and our troops were uniformly successful. Captain Alf. Johnson, commanding an unattached company of Texans, inflicted frequent defeats upon Federal scouting parties, and won much distinction as a brave and skillful partizan. Upon one occasion he literally destroyed an entire Federal company. Major Christman, commanding an Arkansas squadron, was bold and active. Captain Rutherford, of his command, passed entirely around the Federal army, crossing White river, destroying a supply train from Missouri, and capturing a telegraph station a few miles north of Batesville, with the telegraphic correspondence of Curtis and Halleck. The former declared the situation precarious, an advance impracticable without reinforcements, and that he could not remain where he was without supplies; the latter promised both at once, saying he would send a cavalry brigade from Missouri, and infantry, with ample supplies, up White river.

Memphis had long since fallen, and the enemy controlled the Mississippi from St. Louis to Vicksburg, securing access for his gunboats and transports into White river. That stream afforded ten feet of water to DeVall's Bluff, one hundred and seventy-five miles from the mouth, and sixty miles east of Little Rock, with which place there is railway communication.

On June 16th, a Federal fleet appeared in White river, near St. Charles. It consisted of the iron-clad gunboats "St. Louis" and "Mound City," each mounting thirteen guns; the "Lexington" and "Conestoga," partially iron-clad, each carrying seven guns; the tug "Tiger," carrying one twenty-four pounder howitzer; and three transports, with between one thousand and fifteen hundred infantry, under Colonel D. N. Fitch. The "Mausipas" was at St. Charles, but would have been useless against the enemy's iron-clad vessels. The obstructions being incomplete, she was sunk across the channel, together with two steamboats. Two rifle thirty-two pounders and four field-pieces were put in battery on the bluff, manned by seventy-nine men of the crews of the "Mauripas" and "Pontchartrain," under Captain Dunnington, of the latter vessel. Captain Williams's armed men, thirty-five in number, were disposed as sharpshooters, below;

those not armed were sent to the rear. Captain Fry was placed in chief command.

The Federal gunboats attacked about nine, A. M., on the 17th. After an engagement of nearly three hours duration, the "Mound City" was blown up by a shot from our batteries, and the rest retired out of range. The infantry then landed, and carried the position, our little force spiking the guns and retiring up the river. Our loss was six killed, one wounded, and eight missing; that of the enemy was over two hundred. On the "Mound City" alone one hundred and eighty perished. Captain Fry, the last to retreat, was severely wounded and made prisoner. For further particulars of the heroic conduct of this officer, and Captains Dunnington and Williams, with the officers and men under them, I refer to the detailed report of the engagement heretofore forwarded through the headquarters of the western department.

Several days before this battle, Colonel (afterwards Brigadier General) A. Nelson, now deceased, a most excellent officer, arrived at Little Rock from Texas, with his well-armed and finely disciplined regiment of infantry. He was ordered to St. Charles in ample time to have reached there before its fall, but, being without ammunition, was detained at De Vall's Bluff, till I had succeeded in begging, buying, and impressing enough for forty rounds, making it into cartridges, and sending it to him by rail. He then started down the river, by steamer, and was within fifteen miles of St. Charles when it fell. Apprized of that event, he returned to De Vall's Bluff, where entrenchments were thrown up, and three heavy guns, from the Pontchartrain, put in position. Obstructions were also put in the channel to detain the enemy's vessels under fire. A regiment and battalion of Arkansas infantry, just organized and armed, partly with shot-guns and sporting rifles, and partly with pikes and lances, were sent to De Vall's Bluff, together with three batteries of artillery, and with the regiment already there, were formed into a brigade under Colonel Nelson.

The expedition under Fitch was joined, on the 17th and 18th, by an additional gunboat and six transports, carrying troops, which raised his land force to four thousand men, or thereabouts. Evidently alarmed by the resistance met at St. Charles, he moved very slowly up stream, fired upon from both banks by my cavalry, dismounted, and by citizens. His losses were considerable. At Clarendon, twenty-five miles below De Vall's Bluff, he landed a regiment of infantry, and moved it forward on the west side to reconnoitre; escorted by the tug Tiger. After advancing five miles it was compelled to retire with a loss of fifty-five in killed and prisoners. This repulse was given by Morgan's squadron of Texans, and four unattached companies of Arkansas troops, under Captain P. H. Wheat, assisted by several "independent companies" of non-conscripts. I had called upon all citizens, not within the ages of conscription, to form themselves into companies bearing this designation, and of any strength between ten and eighty. They were to arm, equip, and ration themselves, and to serve at will, and were to receive the value

of subsistence and forage furnished, with pay as soldiers for the time actually served. They proved invaluable as guides, scouts, and guerrillas.

On June 24th, certain information reached me that Curtis, with his entire army, was in motion, down the east bank of White river, and that he was almost destitute of supplies. General Rust was ordered towards Jacksonport, intending there to cross White river, get in Curtis' front, and dispute the passage of Black river, three miles above that place. To delay the enemy and gain time for this movement, Sweet's Texan regiment was thrown across White river, above Batesville, and fell upon his rear, killing, wounding, and capturing over two hundred Federals, and taking a number of wagons, containing army stores and sutler's goods. He was compelled to retire, however, by the near approach of Washburn's cavalry brigade, marching from Missouri to reinforce Curtis. General Rust reported it impracticable to cross White river at or near Jacksonport. I then ordered him to Des Arc, seventy-five miles below, and afterwards to cross White river and take position on the Cache river, which Curtis must cross in his march southward. His force was increased at Des Arc by the addition of Colonel (now Brig. Gen.) D. McRae's regiment of Arkansas infantry, which that indomitable officer had marched to him at the rate of twenty-five miles a day, arming his men by impressments and purchases on the route. I was enabled to send him a six gun battery, which just then arrived from General Pike's headquarters, commanded by Captain (now Major) W. E. Woolruff, an officer of tried bravery and skill.

The order for this battery was given on May 31st. It also directed General Pike to send me Dawson's regiment of Arkansas infantry, which might now have been extremely useful. He sent the men, but took away from them their arms. Upon learning this fact, I halted them on the march, till arms could be procured by purchase or impressment. Three regiments of infantry were being raised east of White river, mounted, to admit of their withdrawal upon any sudden emergency. They were concentrated at Cotton Plant, fifteen miles east of Des Arc, and added to General Rust's command. His force amounted to about five thousand effectives. His instructions were to resist the enemy to the last extremity—blockading roads, burning bridges, destroying all supplies, growing crops included, and polluting the water by killing cattle, ripping the carcasses, and throwing them in. In that country, at this season, the streams are few and sluggish. No army could march through it so opposed. The only remaining route would be immediately along the bank of White river, crossing Cache at Clarendon. To meet that contingency, a gunboat was improvised by Captain Dunnington, by lining the steamer T. S. Sugg with cotton bales, and mounting an eight-inch columbiad at her bow.

I proceeded to De Vall's Bluff, where the danger seemed greatest—the enemy below making serious demonstrations by land and water daily, and the skirmishing being heavy and almost incessant. But after inspecting the works and observing the spirit of the men, I

decided that a garrison, five hundred strong, could hold out against Fitch, and that I would lead the remainder—about fifteen hundred—to General Rust, as soon as shot-guns and rifles could be obtained from Little Rock, instead of the pikes and lances with which most of them were armed. Two days elapsed before the change could be effected. In that interval Curtis' advance crossed Cache river, and attacked General Rust, whose command, after an engagement of about thirty minutes, retreated in great disorder across White river. Many of his men deserted—both Texans and Arkansians. No report of this affair was ever received, though often called for; consequently, I am not able to give any of the details. My instructions for devastating the country were not executed.

No longer able to prevent the junction of Curtis and Fitch, I withdrew my infantry from White river, evacuating De Vall's Bluff, without loss of any kind, and taking up new a line—that of the Bayou Metre—twelve miles from Little Rock, by which the enemy's difficulties in supplying himself would be increased, and his employment of gunboats rendered impossible, should he move against me. White river now falling rapidly, the gunboats dropped down and went into the Mississippi, fired upon to the last moment from the west bank. Curtis, at the same time, moved eastward to the Mississippi and established himself at Helena. A portion of my cavalry, under Colonel W. H. Parsons, was thrown forward in that direction, and many successful attacks were made upon the enemy. The most important of these were at Hughes' ferry, on L'Anguille river, thirty miles from Helena. A Federal cavalry regiment, with about two hundred armed negroes, and as many more unarmed, were surprised in camp, and in effect, cut to pieces, losing over four hundred in killed, wounded, and prisoners, with all its baggage. Colonel Parsons and Lieutenant Colonel Burleton, of his regiment, highly distinguished themselves. Our loss was thirty killed and fifty-eight wounded. After this affair, the enemy confined himself in very narrow limits, immediately around Helena. Parsons' command was left to watch that line, and the remainder of my troops were put in camp, near Little Rock, and their organization and instruction commenced. The scarcity of supplies now caused great distress. Nearly two months must yet elapse before the new crops would ripen. To lessen the consumption of corn, I found it necessary to dismount four regiments of Texans and three of Arkansians. This produced much dissatisfaction, and there were many desertions in consequence.

The diseases to which fresh troops are subject became prevalent; many died, and many deserted for this cause. The men became clamorous for pay. I prevailed on the State authorities to turn over to me the war tax due the Confederacy, amounting to upwards of four hundred thousand dollars, and caused it to be disbursed as pay funds—one hundred thousand dollars to the troops in the Indian country, and the residue to those in Arkansas. But the unavoidable delay in doing this gave occasion for many desertions. In a word, desertions took place upon every conceivable pretext. Frequent arrests were

made, but in every instance the offenders were at first pardoned, and returned to duty, on promises of better conduct in future. Forgiveness was thus extended from different considerations. Many were extremely ignorant, and had probably been misled; others had wives and children suffering for food. Lastly, the regimental organizations made by me were not authorized by law, and, under the circumstances, I shrank from inflicting the death penalty. This lenity brought forth evil fruits. Mercy was taken for timidity. Desertions increased. My command seemed likely to dwindle to nothing. The raising of additional troops was paralyzed. At length Colonel Nelson discovered, and reported to me, a wide-spread conspiracy to disband and go home. He ascertained that there was a regular organization for this purpose, and that a badge was adopted by the members for distinguishing each other. Within a few hours after this discovery, a signal gun was fired in the camp of an Arkansas regiment, and sixty men, headed by two lieutenants, deliberately marched away, with their arms and accoutrements. Orders to arrest them were not executed. For the salvation of the country, I had taken the responsibility to force these men into service. I now resolved, for the same object, to compel them to remain. An order was issued convening a "military commission" of three officers. Four prisoners were ordered before it for trial. They were found guilty of double desertion, cutting the telegraph wire, and burning a tannery in Government employ. Each confessed his guilt. I ordered them shot to death in presence of the troops; and saw the order executed. Five other men, four deserters and one citizen, guilty of inciting desertion, all of whom had been captured with arms in their hands, fighting in the Federal ranks, at the battle of L'Anguille, were tried in the same way, found guilty, and put to death. Two deserters were similarly dealt with at Fort Smith, and one at Batesville. These summary measures had the intended effect. The spirit of desertion was crushed. It did not again manifest itself while I commanded the trans-Mississippi district.

In consequence of the virtual abdication of the civil authorities, I believed it my duty, as the only man having the requisite force, to institute a government *ad interim*. I considered this incumbent on me, alike for preserving society and creating and maintaining an army. Hence, on June 30th, I proclaimed martial law. To make this declaration effective, a provost marshal was appointed in each county, and all the independent companies therein were placed under his control. Over these were appointed provost marshals of districts, which included several counties. The Provost Marshal General, at my headquarters, had command over all. It was my intention still further to improve and strengthen the organization by forming the independent companies into regiments and brigades, as a reserve force, for future contingencies.

Martial law, and the regulations enforcing it, put an end to the anarchy by which the loyal population had been so long afflicted. They exorcised the devil of extortion, that was torturing soldiers into desertion by starving their wives and children. They restored the credit of the Confederate currency, and saved the army from starvation.

They broke up trading with the enemy, and destroyed or removed out of his reach, thousands of bales of cotton, that selfish and venal planters were ready to sell for Federal gold. They ensured the exclusion of spies, the arrest of traitors, stragglers and deserters, and the enforcement of the conscription. Occasional acts of injustice may have been committed, but, in the main, the greatest good of the greatest number of loyal citizens was promoted. That was certainly the result; because these citizens themselves, as members of the independent companies, carried martial law into effect in their respective localities. Many arrests were made; but, though the order proclaiming martial law plainly invited the civil authorities to reassert their jurisdiction, I never heard that the writ of *habeas corpus* was even spoken of, except in the case of a negro man, who had attempted the rape of a white woman, whose relations were in the army. The writ was not sued out, and the negro was hanged, as he deserved to be. The opposition to martial law never embraced many persons other than Tories, speculators, extortioners and deserters, and a few of the smaller politicians, who mistook the clamors of these malcontents for the voice of the people. Before resorting to this alternative, I not only satisfied myself that the circumstances made it necessary, but that it was demanded as a necessity by the loyal population. During all of June, letters and petitions to that effect came to me continually. Prominent citizens urged it at personal interviews. The editors of the two leading exponents of public opinion in Arkansas—the *Gazette* and *True Democrat*—strongly advised it. The State military board approved it. Not a single State officer, nor a member of Congress, at any time indicated to me a different opinion. There seemed to be but this one sentiment among good citizens. As to my right to declare martial law, I did not, nor do I now, entertain the shadow of a doubt. Precedents had been set by commanding generals in every part of the Confederacy. I found it in force over the city of Little Rock, by an order of General Beauregard. It had been declared at Van-Buren and Fort Smith, as I was informed, by General Van Dorn or General Price. General Hebert had proclaimed it in Texas. Brigadier General Albert Pike, in a letter bearing date "Headquarters Department of Indian Territory, Fort McCulloch, 8th June, 1862," advised me that he had proclaimed it over a portion of his command; and his "general order No. —," dated June 30, 1862, directed one of his officers to "deal in the most summary manner" with *white men* guilty of any acts of violence or outrage. East of the Mississippi, martial law had been proclaimed at divers places by General Bragg; and at Murfreesboro', during the retreat from Kentucky, I proclaimed it, and was fully sustained by General Albert Sidney Johnston. But if there had been no precedent at all, I should, nevertheless, have taken the responsibility, risking myself upon the justice of my country, and the rectitude of my motives.

In the latter part of July, alarming intelligence reached me from the upper Indian country. The Federal "Indian expedition" was moving from Fort Scott, and its advance had crossed the Cherokee line. To meet this force, five thousand strong, we had only the brave

Stand Watie, with his faithful regiment of half-breed Cherokees; Drew's regiment of full-bloods, many of whom were disaffected; and Clarkson's battalion of Missourians, raised under my orders, and sent there at the urgent request of Watie and Drew, as communicated through the Lieutenant Colonel of Drew's regiment. This small command encountered the enemy and was defeated. Clarkson was captured, with his train, and many of his men dispersed. Except a small body, under the gallant Captain Pickens Benge, Drew's regiment deserted to the enemy. With a courage never surpassed, Stand Watie still resisted. On one occasion, a portion of his regiment, under Major E. C. Boudinot, repulsed the Federal advance of five fold greater strength. But it was not possible to make head against such odds, and he was at length compelled to fall back behind the Arkansas. The full bloods, or "Pin Indians," now rose in rebellion, and committed horrid excesses. John Ross, the Cherokee chief, was prettendedly taken prisoner, but, as afterwards appeared, really went over to the enemy, with the archives and money of the nation.

Looking forward to this invasion, I had on May 31st, the day of taking command, ordered General Pike to advance his force to the Kansas border, for the protection of the Indian country. He was then at Fort McCulloch, about twenty-five miles from the extreme south line of that country, fortifying in an open prairie, with Red river just in his rear. The order reached him on June 8th. Receiving no information that it had been obeyed, I repeated it on June 17th, directing him to "move at once to or near Fort Gibson, in the Cherokee nation." He received this order on June 24th. On July 8th, he being still at Fort McCulloch, I again ordered him forward, instructing him to go by way of Fort Smith, assume command of the troops in northwest Arkansas, in addition to his own, and make the best disposition of them possible, to repel invasion. He acknowledged the receipt of these instructions on July 15th, writing still from Fort McCulloch, and advised me that a part of his troops had already marched, and that he would soon follow with the remainder. On July 21st, he had succeeded in getting as far as Boggy Depot, a distance of twenty-five miles. In the meantime he had forwarded his resignation of the office of Brigadier General, and applied to me to relieve him from duty. In his letter of 21st, when he had approached twenty-five miles nearer the enemy, he said:

"I repeat my request to be *immediately* relieved of this command. If I do not receive an order to that effect in fourteen days, I shall leave the command in the hands of Colonel Cooper."

In his letter of July 3d, speaking of the unfavorable impression existing as to his conduct in the battle of Elkhorn, he said:

"There has been a regular deluge of lies poured out about me, in Arkansas and Texas; and the men of the regiments of Darnell and Dawson, who owe me nothing but favors and kindness, have sown them broadcast over these two States, to such an extent that I should be very obtuse not to know the immense disadvantages under which I labor in endeavoring to effect anything. *The poison is in the minds*

of the men of my own command, and I should be sincerely rejoiced to have the opportunity of retiring to private life."

In the same letter, speaking of certain suggestions he had made to the President, at an early day of the war, in relation to Indian affairs, he said:

"The response to my recommendation was my own appointment, which I did not anticipate, and did not wish; and I am altogether too corpulent to ride much on horseback, and besides am subject to neuralgia in the back, which, seizing me suddenly, utterly disables me for days at a time. I only consented to take the d—d command, because I had made the treaties, felt personally responsible for the security of the country here, and knew it was supposed I could manage better with the Indians than any one else. I am sure I wish somebody else would take it."

Under these circumstances, it seemed that the interests of the service would be promoted, and his own desires gratified, by complying with General Pike's request. I therefore forwarded his resignation to Richmond, with my approval, and at the same time, relieved him from duty. On the receipt of my order to that effect, he issued and distributed a printed circular, addressed to the Indians, and equally likely to reach the enemy, in which, under pretence of defending the Confederate Government, he evidently sought to excite prejudice against it, and endeavored thoroughly to disgust and dishearten our Indian allies, by suppressing or perverting facts, where their publication would be beneficial to our cause, and openly proclaiming them when they should have been concealed. This extract will illustrate the character of the paper:

"I tried in vain to get men enough from Arkansas and Texas to prevent an invasion of the Cherokee country. You can see now, at Cantonment Davis, all the white troops I was allowed to have. You will plainly see that with them, if they had all been in the Cherokee country, two or three thousand of the enemy could at any time have driven them away. And, while they were *there*, if I could have fed them there, what would have kept the northern troops, and the hostile Creeks, and other Indians, from coming down to the Deep Fork and North Fork of the Canadian, and driving out our friends from the Creek and Seminole country?"

Colonel (now Brigadier General) D. H. Cooper, who was next in rank and had succeeded to the command, deemed it his duty to place General Pike in arrest, and so informed me, enclosing a copy of the circular, and expressing the opinion that the author was insane, or a traitor. I approved his action, and ordered General Pike sent to Little Rock, in custody. I also forwarded Colonel Cooper's letter to Richmond, with an endorsement, asking to withdraw my approval of General Pike's resignation, that I might bring him before a court-martial, on charges of falsehood, cowardice and treason. He was also liable to the penalties prescribed by section twenty-nine of the act of Congress, "regulating intercourse with the Indians, and to preserve peace on the frontiers," approved April 8th, 1862, as follows:

"If any person shall send, make, carry or deliver any talk, speech,

message or letter, to any Indian nation, tribe, band, chief or individual, with intent to * * * * make such nation, tribe, band, chief or Indian dissatisfied with their relations with the Confederate States, or uneasy or discontented, the person so offending shall, on conviction, be punished by fine not exceeding ten thousand dollars, nor less than two thousand dollars, and by imprisonment not less than two, nor more than ten years; and the intent above mentioned shall be conclusively inferred from knowledge of the contents of any such talk, speech, message, or letter in writing."

But his resignation had been accepted, after which Mr. Pike reappeared at "Fort McCulloch," issued an order as "Brigadier General commanding," and prevented the march of troops from there towards the enemy. I again ordered him taken in custody, and conducted to Little Rock. My conviction that he was a traitor was confirmed by the discovery, among the very troops thus detained by him, and among citizens in the adjacent part of Texas, of a secret society, formed to aid in restoring the Yankee Union. Forty-six of these traitors were summarily put to death by the people of northeast Texas. Two of them declared that Mr. Pike was looked to as a sympathizer, and the probable leader of their organization. A letter from General Holmes to the Secretary of War, dated November 10th, 1862, and now on file at the Adjutant General's office, is referred to in this connection. This society having been broken up, and Mr. Pike's influence among either whites or Indians amounting to very little, he was turned loose, and has since been permitted to go at large.

Colonel Cooper moved forward to the Arkansas, and united with Stand Watie. At the same time, I pushed across the mountains, from Fort Smith, two regiments of Missourians, under Brigadier General Raines, and three regiments of Arkansians, under Colonel C. A. Carroll. The enemy's communication with Missouri and Kansas being thus threatened, and Cooper moving up in his front, he retreated hastily towards and beyond the Kansas line. Thus the loyal Cherokees were restored to their country, and enabled to assemble a convention, depose Ross and make Stand Watie chief of the nation. Shortly afterwards I arrived at Tahlequah, the Cherokee capital, having been detained until then at Little Rock, by the appearance of a large fleet of gunboats and transports, at the mouth of the Arkansas, and in the lower White river.

The hostile or Pin Indians yet infested the upper parts of the Cherokee country, carrying on a guerrilla war and committing numberless atrocious outrages. Houses were burned, fields laid waste, and women and children massacred by these merciless savages. Between one and two thousand helpless Cherokees fled across the line into Arkansas, where I caused them to be subsisted at Government expense.

Delaying only long enough to concentrate the troops, and arrange for supplies, I moved forward to the north border of Arkansas, and thence into Missouri, clearing the Cherokee country entirely of hostile Indians, driving back the enemy's advanced parties, and eventually compelling the main body to retreat to the vicinity of Fort Scott.

Within fifteen days, an extent of territory one hundred miles long and fifty miles wide, was regained to the Confederacy, and a strong line secured in south Missouri, fully protecting northwest Arkansas and the Indian country.

The "Indian expedition," under Blount, which had retreated before my troops, was a mixed force of whites and Indians. They were much demoralized, running away almost without firing a gun whenever attacked. My mounted men, though less numerous, were more than a match for them. I resolved, therefore, to lead my cavalry, at once against Blount, and, having routed him, and driven them into Kansas, to turn eastward, and attack Springfield; my infantry, under General Raines, also moving upon it from the South. Brigadier General E. Totten had there six thousand men, mostly of the Missouri militia. He was calling for reinforcements, and it was to be anticipated that Blount would unite with him. I would probably be soon outnumbered, and driven back to the Arkansas river, unless able to carry out the plan above mentioned. The preliminary orders were issued and preparations were being made with energy, when I was ordered immediately to Little Rock, by Major General (now Lieutenant General,) T. H. Holmes, who had been assigned to the command of the "trans-Mississippi department," including my district, and had arrived at Little Rock shortly before my departure. He considered an advance by me as likely to open the campaign prematurely, and also desired my services in command of the troops below, to meet a supposed advance of the enemy from Hudson. I obeyed the order with forebodings of disaster, which were afterwards most unfortunately realized.

As embodying the subsequent history of the campaign of 1862, in southwest Missouri and northwest Arkansas, I respectfully refer to Colonel Cooper's report of the battle of Newtonia; a brilliant victory, in which the Indian troops displayed great bravery; also his report of the battle of Maysville, in which his command was disastrously defeated.

Also my reports of the battle of Prairie Grove, the Van Buren affair, and General Marmaduke's expedition into Missouri; and the letter of General Holmes, dated January 1st, 1863, including a memoir by me upon these events; all of which papers are on file in the Adjutant General's department.

General Holmes assumed command of the trans-Mississippi department on August 20th. My command of the trans-Mississippi district, therefore, continued seventy days. I have already mentioned the most important of my acts in the endeavor to create an army. How far I succeeded may be judged by these facts.

In Arkansas there were raised and organized, under my orders, thirteen regiments and one battalion of infantry, two regiments and one battalion of cavalry, and four batteries, all war troops; besides upwards of five thousand irregulars, of the "independent companies," and not including the Arkansas troops drawn from the Indian country.

From Missouri there were raised and organized, under my orders,

seven regiments of cavalry and three batteries, all war troops, exclusive of numerous guerrilla parties remaining in that State.

The records of the Adjutant General's department show that there were only twenty-nine Arkansas regiments and six Missouri regiments, infantry and cavalry included, in the Confederate service up to June 1st, 1862. By my efforts, the number of Arkansas regiments was increased over one-half, and the number of Missouri regiments was trebled, the former being raised to forty-five and the latter to eighteen.

In addition, I drew from Texas twenty-one regiments of infantry and dismounted cavalry, four regiments of cavalry and three batteries, raising the number of Texan regiments in my district to twenty-eight, with five batteries.

It is proper to state that the organization of several regiments of Arkansians and Missourians, above referred to, was not perfected till after General Holmes' arrival, but it was as fully my work as that of the other. It is also true that several of the Texas regiments had not arrived when he assumed command, but they would have come, irrespective of that, under the arrangements already made. The arms that could be obtained in my district were greatly below the number necessary for the troops. General Beauregard sent me three hundred and fifty shot guns and sporting rifles and seven hundred muskets. I endeavored to obtain others by application here, and also made requisitions for funds, but received nothing whatever from any department of the Government, except money sent to my medical purveyor by the Surgeon General.

Since my arrival here, I have been permitted to refer to papers on file in the Adjutant General's department relating to my command and services. I find that my letter of June 9th, 1862, was received on the 27th of the same month, and that it was submitted to and read by the late Secretary of War, Mr. Randolph. It bears an endorsement in pencil, signed with his initials, approving a request made in the last paragraph for the appointment of John H. Crump as quartermaster. That letter, in its first paragraph, states how I came to be in command of the trans-Mississippi district, and refers to and encloses officially attested copies of the orders of General Beauregard, heretofore embodied in this report, assigning me to that command.

Two months after the receipt of that letter, to-wit: on September 5th, having been requested by the lower house of Congress to state by what authority I did certain acts, as commanding general of the trans-Mississippi district, the late Secretary replied as follows:

"The department has no official information of the conduct imputed to General Hindman; but having seen orders, purporting to come from him, declaring martial law and adopting oppressive police regulations in Arkansas, General Holmes has been instructed to inquire into it, and, if he found such to be the case, to rescind the declaration of martial law and the regulations adopted to carry it into effect.

"General Holmes is also instructed as to the mode of executing the conscript act.

“General Hindman was not sent to Arkansas by the department, and has never been commanding general of the trans-Mississippi department.”

The last sentence of the above communication was construed west of the Mississippi river, and probably elsewhere, to mean that, on assuming command of the trans-Mississippi district, I was guilty of *imposture and usurpation*. It seems to admit of that construction. Appearing as the official declaration of the Secretary of War, it injured me, both as an officer and as a man, not only among citizens, but with the troops serving under me. I could have published the facts and silenced slander at any moment, but was deterred from so doing by self-respect and regard for the usages of the service. I addressed a letter to General Holmes, calling attention to the injustice done me, and it was duly forwarded by him, and specially referred to in his accompanying communication, dated October 3, 1862. No answer was ever received. My reputation continued to suffer, and my influence to diminish, under this undeserved blow from the Secretary of War, from which alone the opposition to me derived any weight or respectability.

It eventuated in my application to be relieved from duty west of the Mississippi.

I think it but just to ask that this report, or so much thereof as will correct the error of the late Secretary, be communicated to Congress, and also that I have leave to publish the same.

The length of time and great number of important transactions covered by this report, have extended it far beyond what I could wish. I shall, therefore, be compelled to defer to a supplementary report such mention as I should have been glad to make here of the officers to whom I was most indebted for assistance in the labors performed.

I have the honor to be, General,

Your obedient servant,

T. C. HINDMAN,
Major General.

SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT.

RICHMOND, June, 29, 1863.

To General S. COOPER,

Adjutant and Inspector General :

GENERAL : As a report supplementary to the one made by me on the 19th instant, I beg to mention here the officers to whom I am most indebted for assistance in the labors performed while commanding the trans-Mississippi district.

In the enrollment and organization of troops from Missouri, Brigadier Generals Parsons and McBride ; Colonels Clarke, Payne, Jockman, Thompson, Porter, McDonald, and Shelly ; Lieutenant Colonels Caldwell, Lewis, and Johnston ; Majors Murray, Musser, and Pindell ; Captains Standish, Buchanan, Cravens, Perry, Quantrell, and Harrison, were especially zealous and useful. In estimating the value of their labors, and of the many other devoted men who assisted them, it is to be considered that, in order to bring out recruits from their States, it was necessary to go within the enemy's lines, taking the risks of detection and punishment as spies, secretly collecting the men in squads and companies, arming, equipping, and subsisting them by stealth, and then moving them rapidly southward, through a country swarming with Federal soldiers and an organized militia, and whose population could only give assistance at the hazard of confiscation of property, and even death itself ; that they succeeded at all, under such circumstances, is attributable to a courage and fidelity unsurpassed in the history of the war. That they *did* succeed, beyond all expectation, is shown by the fine regiments of Missouri troops now serving in the trans-Mississippi department. In raising troops in Arkansas, Colonel C. A. Carroll was more successful than any other officer, and is entitled to high credit. He was valuably assisted by Colonels W. H. Brooks and W. D. King, Lieut. Cols. Gunter and McCord, Major Dillard, and others, and put in the service three full regiments of infantry and one of cavalry. Colonel H. L. Gimstead raised two regiments of infantry. Colonel (now Brigadier General) D. McRae, Colonels J. C. Pleasants, H. J. McNeill, C. H. Mattock, each raised a regiment.

In raising Arkansas troops, and afterwards in their organization and instructions important services were rendered by the following, among other officers : Colonel (now Brigadier General) J. T. Fagan, Colonels Shaler, Sharer, Morgan, Glenn, and Johnson ; Lieutenant Colonels Gevghagan, Maginnis, Polk, McMillan, Wright, Hart,

Young, and Crawford; Majors Bell, Gand, Coke, Baber, Yell, Hicks, Chrisman, and Crenshaw; Captains J. Johnson, Ringo, Martin, Horne, Blackmer, and Biscoe. Among so many who were efficient, it is difficult at this date to remember all, and it is probable some are omitted who should be named.

In the emergency that existed, it was absolutely necessary, as I have shown in the report to which this is an accompaniment, for me to assume the authority to appoint the field and staff officers. If this had not been done not a regiment would have been raised, and Arkansas would have been wholly overrun by the enemy. For this and other assumptions of power, made necessary by the same exigency, I have been much censured by various persons. As for myself, I do not conceive it necessary to offer here any vindication other than the statement just made. But as to the officers whom I appointed, and by whose labors Arkansas was saved from subjugation, I feel it a duty to urge that recognition and reward which their services merit. It will appear as a strange chapter in the history of this contest that the Confederate Congress, by special enactment, legalized the regimental organizations made by me, thereby recognizing the necessity of my action, and yet subsequently legislated out of office the officers who raised the troops, organized, provided for, and instructed them, and afterwards led them to battle and victory. I am fully persuaded that the legislation just referred to was based upon an imperfect knowledge of the facts, and for this reason, with due respect to the legislative authority, I have called attention to it.

The services of Brig. Gen. Roane, in Arkansas and Louisiana, have been mentioned in my previous report. In that report I also specially referred to the prompt patriotism with which Brigadier Generals Hebert, McCulloch, and Nelson, and the officers and men of the various Texan regiments came to my assistance. In the various staff departments, the officers necessary for the proper working of each were appointed by me, and as a body displayed much zeal and efficiency. A list of these appointments was submitted by me to Lieutenant General Holmes, and was approved by him and forwarded to Richmond for confirmation. Up to the date when I was relieved from duty west of the Mississippi river, a few of these officers only had been commissioned. The remainder continued to act without commissions and without compensation. None of them are supernumeraries, and every one desires to be appointed. For the benefit of the service and as an act of justice to them, I earnestly hope that commissions will be sent them at an early day.

The officers composing my staff performed services greatly exceeding the requirements of their several positions and full of the most arduous and exacting labor. In the discharge of office duty and in organizing, instructing, and providing for the troops, they were constantly attentive and laborious. On the field they displayed the courage and coolness becoming to them.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

T. C. HINDMAN, *Major General.*







